U.S. Application No.: 10/035,204 Inventor: Vincent DE LAFORCADE Attorney Docket No.: 05725,1006-00

Reply to Final Office Action dated May 4, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 13, 15, 19, 36, 48, and 51, and cancel claims 12, 14, 47, 49, 64-66, and 69-71 without prejudice or disclaimer, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for mixing at least two products, the system comprising:

a first container for containing at least a first product, the first container comprising

a first opening,

a first coupler, [[and]]

a neck,

a hollow shaft located within the neck, and

a blunt safety member;

a second container for containing at least a second product, the second container comprising

a second opening,

a seal closing the second opening, and

a second coupler configured to engage with the first coupler; and

a perforating member configured to pierce the seal closing the second opening,

wherein the safety member is configured to press against the seal while the seal

maintains closure of the second opening,

wherein the first opening is not completely obstructed by the safety member,

[[and]]

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wherein the safety member extends through the first opening.

wherein the hollow shaft defines the first opening and the first coupler is located on the hollow shaft, and

wherein the hollow shaft is connected to the neck via a connecting element and the connecting element comprises at least one vent orifice for allowing air to escape during mixing of the first and second products.

- 2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the seal comprises a film seal.
- 3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the safety member is configured to press against the seal while the first and the second couplers are out of engagement with one another.
- 4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the safety member comprises a protrusion extending at least partially beyond the first opening.
- 5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the protrusion comprises a blunt end for pressing against the seal.
- 6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the blunt end comprises a flat surface.

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7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first container further comprises

an opening element for displacing portions of the seal from the second opening when

the first coupler engages with the second coupler such that the second opening

becomes at least partially uncovered to enable the first container to be in flow

communication with the second container for mixing the first and second products.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the opening element comprises a

cutting device for at least partially cutting the seal when the first coupler engages with

the second coupler.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the cutting device comprises a

trocar.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the safety member

comprises an end surface configured to contact the seal, and

wherein the cutting device is formed by a portion of the safety member spaced

from the end surface.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first coupler comprises a first

screw threading, and the second coupler comprises a second screw threading for

engaging the first screw threading.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

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13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[12]] 1, wherein the safety member extends within the hollow shaft.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

- 15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[12]] 1, wherein the hollow shaft and the neck form a head.
- 16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the head is formed of a single piece of material.
- 17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the first container further comprises a body, and wherein the head is mounted on the body by one of welding and bonding.
- 18. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a removable stopper for closing the first opening and for protecting the safety member.

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19. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A system of claim 18, for mixing at least two products, the system comprising:

a first container for containing at least a first product, the first container comprising

a first opening,

a first coupler, and

a blunt safety member;

a second container for containing at least a second product, the second container comprising

a second opening,

a seal closing the second opening, and

a second coupler configured to engage with the first coupler;

a removable stopper for closing the first opening and for protecting the blunt

safety member; and

a perforating member configured to pierce the seal closing the second opening,
wherein the safety member is configured to press against the seal while the seal
maintains closure of the second opening,

wherein the first opening is not completely obstructed by the safety member,
wherein the safety member extends through the first opening, and
wherein the removable stopper comprises a frangible end such that the
removable stopper may be used as an applicator tip.

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20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the first container further comprises a neck bearing a screw thread for securing the removable stopper to the first container.

- 21. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a removable stopper configured to be secured to the second container via the second coupler in both a first position and a second position, wherein the seal is capable of being protected in the first position and the seal is capable of being displaced in the second position.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the removable stopper comprises a wall having skirt including a screw threading for engaging the second coupler, and wherein the removable stopper further comprises the perforating member.
- 23. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first container comprises a tube having elastically deformable walls.
- 24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the tube is formed from polyethylene.
- 25. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the second container comprises a tube.

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26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the tube is formed from aluminum, and the seal comprises an aluminum film.

27. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a first product contained in the first container and a second product contained in the second container,

wherein the first product and the second product comprise a composition when mixed, the composition being one of a cosmetic product and a care product.

- 28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the composition comprises one of a hair coloring product and a hair care product.
- 29. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the first product comprises an oxidizing agent and the second product comprises a dye.
- 30. (Previously Presented) A method of mixing at least two products, the method comprising:

providing the system of claim 1, wherein a first product is contained in the first container and a second product is contained in the second container;

engaging the first coupler with the second coupler; and mixing the first product and the second product.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the mixing of the first product and the second product forms a composition, the composition being one of a cosmetic

product and a care product.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the composition comprises one

of a hair coloring and a hair care product.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first product comprises an

oxidizing agent and the second product comprises a dye.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising displacing the seal

prior to engaging the first coupler with the second coupler.

35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the system further comprises a

removable stopper configured to be secured to the second container via the second

coupler, and

wherein the displacing of the seal comprises displacing the seal via the

removable stopper.

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36. (Currently Amended) A system for mixing at least two products, the system comprising:

a first container for containing a first product, the first container comprising

a first opening,

a first coupler, [[and]]

a neck,

a hollow shaft located within the neck, and

a safety member;

a second container for containing a second product, the second container comprising

a second opening,

a displaceable seal closing the second opening, and

a second coupler configured to engage with the first coupler; and

a perforating member configured to pierce the displaceable seal closing the second opening,

wherein the safety member is configured to prevent engagement between the first coupler and the second coupler prior to displacement of the seal when the safety member is pressed against the seal, [[and]]

wherein the first opening is not completely obstructed by the safety member

wherein the hollow shaft defines the first opening and the first coupler is located

on the hollow shaft, and

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wherein the hollow shaft is connected to the neck via a connecting element, and

the connecting element comprises at least one vent orifice for allowing air to escape

during mixing of the first and second products.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the seal comprises a film seal.

38. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the safety member is configured

to press against the seal while the first and the second couplers are out of engagement

with one another.

39. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the safety member comprises a

protrusion extending at least partially beyond the first opening.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the protrusion comprises a blunt

end for pressing against the seal.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the blunt end comprises a flat

surface.

42. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the first container further

comprises an opening element for displacing portions of the seal from the second

opening when the first coupler engages with the second coupler such that the second

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opening becomes at least partially uncovered to enable the first container to be in flow communication with the second container for mixing the first and second products.

- 43. (Original) The system of claim 42, wherein the opening element comprises a cutting device for at least partially cutting the seal when the first coupler engages with the second coupler.
- 44. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein the cutting device comprises a trocar.
- 45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the safety member comprises an end surface configured to contact the seal, and

wherein the cutting device is formed by a portion of the safety member spaced from the end surface.

46. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the first coupler comprises a first screw threading, and the second coupler comprises a second screw threading for engaging the first screw threading.

Claim 47 (Canceled).

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[47]] 36, wherein the safety member extends within the hollow shaft.

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Claim 49 (Canceled).

50. (Original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a removable stopper for closing the first opening and for protecting the safety member.

51. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A system of claim 50, for mixing at least two products, the system comprising:

a first container for containing a first product, the first container comprising

a first opening,

a first coupler, and

a safety member;

a second container for containing a second product, the second container comprising

a second opening,

a displaceable seal closing the second opening, and

a second coupler configured to engage with the first coupler;

a removable stopper for closing the first opening and for protecting the safety

member; and

a perforating member configured to pierce the displaceable seal closing the second opening,

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wherein the safety member is configured to prevent engagement between the first coupler and the second coupler prior to displacement of the seal when the safety member is pressed against the seal.

wherein the first opening is not completely obstructed by the safety member, and wherein the removable stopper comprises a frangible end such that the removable stopper may be used as an applicator tip.

- 52. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the first container further comprises a neck bearing a screw thread for securing the removable stopper to the first container.
- 53. (Original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a removable stopper configured to be secured to the second container via the second coupler in both a first position and a second position, wherein the seal is capable of being protected in the first position and the seal is capable of being displaced in the second position.
- 54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the removable stopper comprises a wall having skirt including a screw threading for engaging the second coupler, and wherein the removable stopper further comprises the perforating member.

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- 55. (Original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a first product contained in the first container and a second product contained in the second container, wherein the first product and the second product comprise a composition when mixed, the composition being one of a cosmetic product and a care product.
- 56. (Original) The system of claim 55, wherein the composition comprises one of a hair coloring product and a hair care product.
- 57. (Original) The system of claim 55, wherein the first product comprises an oxidizing agent and the second product comprises a dye.
- 58. (Original) A method of mixing at least two products, the method comprising: providing the system of claim 36, wherein a first product is contained in the first container and a second product is contained in the second container;

engaging the first coupler with the second coupler; and mixing the first product and the second product.

- 59. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the mixing of the first product and the second product forms a composition, the composition being one of a cosmetic product and a care product.
- 60. (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein the composition comprises one of a hair coloring and a hair care product.

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61. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the first product comprises an

oxidizing agent and the second product comprises a dye.

62. (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising displacing the seal

prior to engaging the first coupler with the second coupler.

63. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the system further comprises a

removable stopper for being secured to the second container via the second coupler,

and

wherein the displacing of the seal comprises displacing the seal via the

removable stopper.

Claims 64-66 (Canceled).

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a

removable stopper comprising the perforating member.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising a

removable stopper comprising the perforating member.

Claims 69-71 (Canceled).